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7AM-SPY CASE:450

7HUNGARIAN INDICTED ON FOUR ESPIONAGE CHARGES

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) - A 50-YEAR-OLD HUNGARIAN NATIVE WAS INDICTED BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY THURSDAY ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO BUY CLASSIFIED MILITARY DOCUMENTS AND FILM FROM A U.S. ARMY WARRANT OFFICER.

OTTO ATTILLA GILBERT, ARRESTED SATURDAY IN AUGUSTA, Ga., WAS CHARGED WITH FOUR COUNTS OF ESPIONAGE.

THE INDICTMENT ALLEGES THAT GILBERT CONSPIRED WITH TWO OTHER HUNGARIANS, WHO WERE NOT INDICTED, TO OBTAIN NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMATION AND DELIVER IT TO HUNGARIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS. THE DOCUMENTS INCLUDED A REGISTER OF INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS, DATED OCTOBER 1981, AND AN ACTIVE ARMY TROOP LIST DATED DEC. 31, 1980, THE INDICTMENT SAID.

U.S. ATTORNEY HINTON R. PIERCE SAID GILBERT WILL BE ARRAIGNED IN AUGUSTA AS SOON AS HE RETURNS FROM A FEDERAL PRISON HOSPITAL IN SPRINGFIELD, Mo., WHERE HE IS BEING TREATED FOR PHLEBITIS IN HIS LEFT LEG. HE IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN MISSOURI AT LEAST THREE WEEKS, PIERCE SAID EARLIER.

PIERCE SAID THE CASE WILL BE PROSECUTED BY THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND BY JOHN J. DION AND RICHARD SCRUGGS OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CRIMINAL DIVISION.

U.S. MAGISTRATE JOHN W. DUNSMORE JR. OF AUGUSTA HAD SCHEDULED A PRELIMINARY HEARING FOR GILBERT ON APRIL 30, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE CANCELED IF THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNED INDICTMENTS.

GILBERT, A NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZEN, WAS ARRESTED IN AUGUSTA LAST WEEKEND AFTER HE GAVE \$4,000 TO ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JANOS MIHALY SZMOLKA IN EXCHANGE FOR CLASSIFIED MILITARY DOCUMENTS AND FILM, THE FBI SAID.

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FLEW GILBERT TO MISSOURI ON TUESDAY AFTER HE WAS TREATED AT AN AUGUSTA HOSPITAL FOR HIS PHLEBITIS, AN INFLAMMATION OF THE VEINS.

SZMOLKA, 43, A HUNGARIAN NATIVE, WORKED WITH THE FBI AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TO SET UP THE ARREST, THE FBI SAID. SZMOLKA IS STATIONED AT FORT GORDON NEAR AUGUSTA, WHERE HE IS ASSIGNED AS A FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHER.

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COURT DOCUMENTS SAID SZMOLKA WAS VISITING RELATIVES IN BUDAPEST IN DECEMBER 1977 AND JANUARY 1978 WHEN HE WAS APPROACHED BY A MAN NAMED LAJOS PERLAKI, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AN OFFICER IN THE HUNGARIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND ASKED SZMOLKA TO SELL HIM SECRET MILITARY INFORMATION.

SZMOLKA LATER INFORMED U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OF THE CONTACT, LAUNCHING A FOUR-YEAR OPERATION THAT CONCLUDED WITH SZMOLKA'S WEEKEND MEETING WITH GILBERT, ALLEGEDLY PERLAKI'S COURIER, COURT DOCUMENTS SAID.

ARMY OFFICIALS SAID SZMOLKA HAS BEEN STATIONED AT FORT GORDON SINCE JANUARY 1980 AND HELD PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS IN KOREA, VIETNAM AND GERMANY.

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